



Legislative
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SB 19-009

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 19-0478	Date:	January 17, 2019
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Todd Rep. McLachlan; Wilson	Bill Status:	Senate Education
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Bill Topic: FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR RURAL EDUCATORS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill removes the limits on the number of stipends that the Department of Higher Ed may award teachers in rural areas and increases the stipend amount for prospective rural teachers. The bill increases workload at the University of Northern Colorado on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required; see State Expenditures section.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Department of Higher Education administers the following stipends for teachers in rural areas:

- up to 40 stipends to individuals in approved educator preparation programs who agree to teach in a rural school or school district for at least two years. The stipends, known as Colorado Rural Teaching Stipends (CRTS), offset tuition costs and may not exceed \$2,800 each.
- up to 60 stipends of up to \$6,000 each to teachers in rural areas who are seeking certification as a national board certified teacher, seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher, or completing an alternative licensure program that leads to employment in a rural area.

The bill removes the limits on the number of stipends that may be issued, and increases the maximum stipend amount from \$2,800 to \$4,000 for the CRTS program.

Background

The stipends are administered by the Center for Rural Education at the University of Northern Colorado. In FY 2018-19, \$441,095 was appropriated for rural teaching recruitment, retention, and professional development, a portion of which is used for these stipend programs. In addition,

Senate Bill 18-085 included an appropriation of \$240,000 for the stipends for national board certified teaching certification, concurrent enrollment certification, or alternative licensure. Table 1 lists the applications received and stipends awarded in FY 2018-19.

**Table 1.
Stipends Applications and Awards**

Stipend	FY 2018-19*		Current Cap on Number of Stipends
	Applications	Stipends Awarded	
Rural Teaching (CRTS)	70	63	40
Concurrent Enrollment Certification	6	3	
National Board Teacher Certification	30	17	60
Alternative Licensure	148	40	

* as of January, 2019.

State Expenditures

Increasing the stipend amount for the CRTS program and removing the cap on the number of stipends may result in a larger applicant pool, making the program more competitive. To the extent that the number of applications increases, the Center for Rural Education may adjust the specific amount of each stipend and the number of stipends awarded.

The bill does not require new funding; it is up to the General Assembly to decide whether to provide additional funding for the stipends. For informational purposes, \$100,000 would provide up to either 25 new CRTS stipends (at \$4,000 each), or approximately 17 new stipends for national board certified teaching certification, concurrent enrollment certification, or alternative teacher licensure (at \$6,000 each), or some combination thereof.

In addition, the bill increases the workload for the Center for Rural Education at UNC by a minimal amount to review any additional stipend applications, award additional stipends, and make any adjustments to award amounts.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education